

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 8-10 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-7 have been amended herein.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,772,343 (Beretta et al.). Claims 5, 6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Beretta et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,679,599 (Jurrens et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,988,809 (Yokoi et al.). Claim 7 was rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable in further view of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2001-261181 (Asada). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a recording apparatus for recording on a recording medium by a recording head. The apparatus includes a conveying roller, a first both-side roller, a first pinch roller, a second both-side roller and a second pinch roller. The conveying roller is provided upstream of the recording head to convey the recording medium. The first both-side roller inverts the recording medium of which a first side has been subjected to recording by the recording head, and the first both-side roller is driven by a motor and abutted with the first side of the recording medium. The first pinch roller is rotated by moving with the first both-side roller. The second both-side roller is provided downstream of the first both-side roller, for

inverting the recording medium of which the first side has been subjected to recording, and the second both-side roller is driven by a motor and abutted with the first side of the recording medium. The second pinch roller is rotated by moving with the second both-side roller.

With the above arrangement, damage of the recording result on the recording medium can be prevented.

Beretta et al. relates to a media handling system for duplex printing and includes pick and feed rollers 22, 23, feed idler rollers 24, an upper feed guide 26, a refeed guide 28, metering rollers 30, metering pinch rollers 32, and a repick guide 36. The refeed guide is movable between first and second positions. Pick and feed rollers 22, 23 are coaxial and pick a media sheet from input tray 12 and feed it to metering rollers 30, which meter the sheet past ink jet pens 14. After recording on one side, metering rollers 30 reverse rotation to refeed the sheet through pick and feed rollers 22, 23, thus inverting the sheet and forwarding the sheet to metering rollers 30 for printing on the other side.

Regardless of how pick and feed rollers 22, 23 and metering rollers 30 are construed, they cannot read simultaneously on a conveying roller provided upstream of a recording head, a first both-side roller for inverting the recording medium and a second both-side roller provided downstream of the first both-side roller, for inverting the recording medium, as is recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Beretta et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Jurrens et al. was cited for teaching rollers in a printing transport mechanism, with at least one roller having a decreased hardness. Yokoi et al. was cited for teaching materials for forming a spur roller. Asada was cited for teaching materials for forming rollers in a sheet feeding device. However, these citations are not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Beretta et al. noted above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

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